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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 191516
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 A-01 MMO-01 /028 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:KMCCORMICK:DH
APPROVED BY AF/S:HKAISER
AF/S:LMACFARLANE
AF/EPS:FTHOMAS
----------016845 290941Z /13
R 282205Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
INFO AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE

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STADIS//////////////////

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, EAID, BC, LT, WZ

SUBJECT: AID STAFFING IN THE BLS COUNTRIES

REF: (A) MBABANE 2521; (B) MASERU 1571 (C) ALBERTI-AF/S TELECON 6/25

1. YOU ARE CORRECT THAT AID/W IS CURRENTLY PLANNING TO ASSIGN COUNTRY MISSION DIRECTORS AT THE FSR-1 LEVEL TO EACH OF THE NEWLY INDEPENDENT COUNTRY MISSIONS IN THE BLS STATES WHICH WILL RESULT FROM THE SCHEDULED DISBAND-MENT OF OSARAC AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW FISCAL YEAR. AID'S REASONS STEM FROM (1) WORLDWIDE PRINCIPLE OF HEADING INDEPENDENT COUNTRY MISSIONS AT HIGHEST FSR GRADE AND (2) BELIEF THAT SPECIFIC PROGRAMS IN EACH OF THESE COUNTRIES

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ARE SUFFICIENTLY COMPLEX TO WARRANT STAFFING AT THIS LEVEL.

2. DEPARTMENT IS SENSITIVE TO THE RESERVATIONS YOU EXPRESS IN PARA 2 REF (A) REGARDING THIS PROPOSAL, WHICH WOULD RESULT IN AID DIRECTORS OUTRANKING RESIDENT CHARGES D'AFFAIRES, RAISING US VISIBILITY AND EXPECTATIONS, AND IGNORING DIFFERENCES IN SCALE OF PROGRAMS AMONG THE THREE

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COUNTRIES. AF HAS GIVEN ITS APPROVAL TO OVERALL PROPOSAL TO REORGANIZE AID ACTIVITIES IN BLS WITHOUT AGREEING AT THIS POINT TO FSR-1 STAFFING PROPOSAL, WHICH REMAINS

TO BE FINALLY DECIDED. WHILE DEPARTMENT WILL DEFER TO AID/W REGARDING SELECTION OF SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS TO SERVE AS MISSION DIRECTORS, IT IS OPPOSED TO EXCESSIVE GRADING OF POSITIONS AND WILL ARGUE THAT NEWLY CREATED AID MISSIONS SHOULD NOT BE HEADED BY OFFICERS HIGHER IN GRADE THAN SENIOR STATE REPRESENTATIVES (RESIDENT CHARGES/DCMS). ADMINISTRATOR GILLIGAN'S TESTIMONY TO CONGRESS INDICATING HIS OPPOSITION TO "GRADE CREEP" SUGGESTS AID/W ALSO SENSITIVE TO THESE CONSIDERATIONS.

3. FYI: IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT ALL COUNTRY MISSION DIRECTORS REGARDLESS OF GRADE WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR DIPLOMATIC TITLES (REF B). SPECIFIC REPLY TO THAT CABLE WILL BE FORTHCOMING WITHOUT STADIS CAPTION. END FYI.

4. IN REGARD TO QUESTION POSED IN REF (C), AFR CONFIRMS THAT PROPOSED REALIGNMENT WILL RESULT IN NEW TOTAL OF 34 REPEAT 34 NOT 31 USDH AID POSITIONS. AID/W ALSO PLANS REQUEST INCREASE IN FNDH WORK FORCE CEILING FROM 24 TO 36.

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5. IF, ON BASIS THESE REPLIES TO YOUR REFTEL REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION, YOU REMAIN CONVINCED THAT FSR-1 STAFFING PROPOSAL OR OTHER ELEMENTS OF REALIGNMENT ARE INADVISABLE, YOU SHOULD CONVEY YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS WITHOUT STADIS CAPTION FOR JOINT STATE/AID ACTION. VANCE

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EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
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